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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

20306 7590 10/02/2003
MCDONNELL BOEHNEN HULBERT & BERGHOFF
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
SUITE 3200
CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

SINES, BRIAN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1743

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2003

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/989,582	11/20/2001	Alec Mian	95,1408-JJJ	9742

TITLE OF INVENTION: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR USING CENTRIPETAL ACCELERATION TO DRIVE FLUID MOVEMENT IN A MICROFLUIDICS SYSTEM

3

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1330	\$300	\$1630	01/02/2004

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

☐ Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail**

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)

20306 7590 10/02/2003

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CHICAGO, IL 60606

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

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09/989,582	11/20/2001	Alec Mian	95,1408-JJJ	9742

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APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1330	\$300	\$1630	01/02/2004

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
SINES, BRIAN J	1743	422-064000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent); ☐ individual ☐ corporation or other private group entity ☐ government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

Director for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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MCDONNELL BOEHNEN HULBERT & BERGHOFF 300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE SUITE 3200 CHICAGO, IL 60606			SINES, BRIAN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1743	

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2003

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 255 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 255 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.



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MCDONNELL BOEHNEN HULBERT & BERGHOFF 300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE SUITE 3200 CHICAGO, IL 60606				
			EXAMINER SINES, BRIAN J	
			ART UNIT 1743	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2003

Notice of Fee Increase on October 1, 2003

If a reply to a "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" is filed in the Office on or after October 1, 2003, then the amount due will be higher than that set forth in the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" since there will be an increase in fees effective on October 1, 2003. See Revision of Patent Fees for Fiscal Year 2004; Final Rule, 68 Fed. Reg. 41532, 41533, 41534 (July 14, 2003).

The current fee schedule is accessible from (<http://www.uspto.gov/main/howtofees.htm>).

If the fee paid is the amount shown on the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" but not the correct amount in view of the fee increase, a "Notice of Pay Balance of Issue Fee" will be mailed to applicant. In order to avoid processing delays associated with mailing of a "Notice of Pay Balance of Issue Fee," if the response to the Notice of Allowance is to be filed on or after October 1, 2003 (or mailed with a certificate of mailing on or after October 1, 2003), the issue fee paid should be the fee that is required at the time the fee is paid. If the issue fee was previously paid, and the response to the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" includes a request to apply a previously-paid issue fee to the issue fee now due, then the difference between the issue fee amount at the time the response is filed and the previously-paid issue fee should be paid. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 1308.01 (Eighth Edition, August 2001).

Effective October 1, 2003, 37 CFR 1.18 is amended by revising paragraphs (a) through (c) to read as set forth below.

Section 1.18 Patent post allowance (including issue) fees.

- (a) Issue fee for issuing each original or reissue patent, except a design or plant patent:
By a small entity (Sec. 1.27(a))..... \$665.00
By other than a small entity..... \$1,330.00
- (b) Issue fee for issuing a design patent:
By a small entity (Sec. 1.27(a))..... \$240.00
By other than a small entity..... \$480.00
- (c) Issue fee for issuing a plant patent:
By a small entity (Sec. 1.27(a))..... \$320.00
By other than a small entity..... \$640.00

Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/989,582

Examiner

Brian J. Sines

Applicant(s)

MIAN ET AL.

Art Unit

1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____. | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin E. Nooan on 9/30/2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 15 is cancelled.

Claim 1. A method for measuring the amount of an analyte in a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

a) applying the biological sample to a sample inlet port of a microsystem platform of centripetally-motivated fluid micromanipulation apparatus comprising a microsystem platform, wherein the microsystem platform comprises:

i) a multiplicity of sample inlet ports, arranged concentrically around the center of the platform, wherein each of the sample inlet ports is operatively linked to

ii) a multiplicity of microchannels arrayed radially away from the center of the platform, said microchannels being operatively linked to

iii) a multiplicity of reagent reservoirs containing a reagent specific for the analyte to be measured, wherein release of the reagent from each of the reservoirs is controlled by a

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microvalve, wherein the microvalves are in electrical contact with a controller unit, and wherein the multiplicity of microchannels is also operatively linked to

iv) a multiplicity of analyte detection chambers arranged peripherally around the outer edge of the microplatform,

wherein movement of the biological sample from the sample inlet port and through the microchannel, and movement of the reagent from the reagent reservoir and through the microchannel, is motivated by centripetal force generated by rotational motion of the microsystem platform,

b) placing the microsystem[s] platform in a micromanipulation [device] apparatus,

c) providing rotational motion to the microsystem[s] platform for a time and at a velocity sufficient to motivate the biological sample containing the analyte from the sample inlet port through the microchannel,

d) opening each of the microvalves controlling release of the reagent from the reagent reservoirs by generating a signal from the controlling unit, at a time and for a duration, whereby the reagent moves into the microchannel and is mixed with the biological sample,

e) observing the mixture of the biological sample and the reagent in the analyte detection chamber, whereby a detector [comprising the device] within the micromanipulation apparatus detects a signal proportional to the amount of the analyte present in the biological sample, and

f) recording the measurement of the amount of the analyte in the biological sample.

Claim 8. A method for detecting gas or particles comprising an environmental sample, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

a) Contacting the environmental sample with a sample inlet port of a microsystem platform of a centripetally-motivated fluid micromanipulation apparatus comprising a microsystem platform, wherein the microsystem platform comprises:

i) a multiplicity of sample inlet ports, arranged concentrically around the center of the platform, wherein the sample ports comprise an air intake vent and a connecting funnel channel, wherein each of the sample inlet ports is operatively linked to

ii) a multiplicity of microchannels arrayed radially away from the center of the platform, said microchannels being operatively linked to

iii) a multiplicity of reagent reservoirs containing a reagent specific for the gas or particles to be detected, wherein release of the reagent from each of the reservoirs is controlled by a microvalve, wherein the microvalves are in electrical contact with a controller unit, and wherein the multiplicity of microchannels is also operatively linked to

iv) a multiplicity of gas or particle detectors arranged peripherally around the outer edge of the microplatform,

wherein movement of the environmental sample from the sample inlet port and through the microchannel, and movement of the reagent from the reagent from the reagent reservoir and through the microchannel is motivated by centripetal force generated by rotational motion of the microsystem platform,

b) placing the microsystem[s] platform in a micromanipulation device,

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- c) providing rotational motion to the microsystem[s] platform for a time and at a velocity sufficient to motivate the gaseous or particulate environmental sample from the sample inlet port through the microchannel,
- d) opening each of the microvalves controlling the release of the reagent from the reagent reservoirs by generating a signal from the controlling unit, at a time and duration whereby the reagent moves into the microchannel and is mixed with the environmental sample,
- e) detecting the mixture of the environmental sample and the reagent or the gaseous or particulate component of the environmental sample directly in the gas or particle detection chamber, whereby each of the detectors detects a signal proportional to the amount of the gas or particulate present in the environmental sample, and
- f) recording the measurement of the amount of the gas or particulate in the environmental sample.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 – 14 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Braynin *et al.* teach an analytical centrifuge rotor apparatus for separating plasma whole blood. Katzer *et al.* teach an automated miniature centrifuge apparatus for separating the component parts of blood samples prior to analysis. Breillatt, Jr. *et al.* teach a centrifuge rotor apparatus for separating blood components.

The cited prior art neither teach or fairly suggest a method for measuring the amount of an analyte in a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

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(a) applying the biological sample to a sample inlet port of a microsystem platform of centripetally-motivated fluid micromanipulation apparatus comprising a microsystem platform, wherein the microsystem platform comprises: a multiplicity of sample inlet ports arranged concentrically around the center of the platform, wherein each of the sample inlet ports is operatively linked to a multiplicity of microchannels arrayed radially away from the center of the platform, wherein the microchannels are operatively linked to a multiplicity of reagent reservoirs containing a reagent specific for the analyte to be measured, wherein release of the reagent from each of the reservoirs is controlled by a microvalve, wherein the microvalves are in electrical contact with a controller unit, and wherein the multiplicity of microchannels is also operatively linked to a multiplicity of analyte detection chambers arranged peripherally around the outer edge of the microplatform, wherein movement of the biological sample from the sample inlet port and through the microchannel, and movement of the reagent from the reagent reservoir and through the microchannel, is motivated by centripetal force generated by rotational motion of the microsystem platform,

b) placing the microsystem platform in a micromanipulation apparatus,

c) providing rotational motion to the microsystem platform for a time and at a velocity sufficient to motivate the biological sample containing the analyte from the sample inlet port through the microchannel,

d) opening each of the microvalves controlling release of the reagent from the reagent reservoirs by generating a signal from the controlling unit, at a time and for a duration, whereby the reagent moves into the microchannel and is mixed with the biological sample,

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- e) observing the mixture of the biological sample and the reagent in the analyte detection chamber, whereby a detector within the micromanipulation apparatus detects a signal proportional to the amount of the analyte present in the biological sample, and
- f) recording the measurement of the amount of the analyte in the biological sample.

The cited prior art neither teach or fairly suggest a method for detecting gas or particles comprising an environmental sample, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

- a) contacting the environmental sample with a sample inlet port of a microsystem platform of a centripetally-motivated fluid micromanipulation apparatus comprising a microsystem platform, wherein the microsystem platform comprises: a multiplicity of sample inlet ports, arranged concentrically around the center of the platform, wherein the sample ports comprise an air intake vent and a connecting funnel channel, wherein each of the sample inlet ports is operatively linked to a multiplicity of microchannels arrayed radially away from the center of the platform, wherein the microchannels are operatively linked to a multiplicity of reagent reservoirs containing a reagent specific for the gas or particles to be detected, wherein release of the reagent from each of the reservoirs is controlled by a microvalve, wherein the microvalves are in electrical contact with a controller unit, and wherein the multiplicity of microchannels is also operatively linked to a multiplicity of gas or particle detectors arranged peripherally around the outer edge of the microplatform, wherein movement of the environmental sample from the sample inlet port and through the microchannel, and movement of the reagent from the reagent from the reagent reservoir and through the microchannel is motivated by centripetal force generated by rotational motion of the microsystem platform,

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- b) placing the microsystem platform in a micromanipulation device,
- c) providing rotational motion to the microsystem platform for a time and at a velocity sufficient to motivate the gaseous or particulate environmental sample from the sample inlet port through the microchannel,
- d) opening each of the microvalves controlling the release of the reagent from the reagent reservoirs by generating a signal from the controlling unit, at a time and duration whereby the reagent moves into the microchannel and is mixed with the environmental sample,
- e) detecting the mixture of the environmental sample and the reagent or the gaseous or particulate component of the environmental sample directly in the gas or particle detection chamber, whereby each of the detectors detects a signal proportional to the amount of the gas or particulate present in the environmental sample, and
- f) recording the measurement of the amount of the gas or particulate in the environmental sample.

The cited prior art neither teach or fairly suggest a method for determining a hematocrit value from a blood sample, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) applying the blood sample to the proximal end of a microchannel of a microsystem platform of a centripetally-motivated fluid micromanipulation apparatus comprising a micromanipulation device and a microsystem platform, wherein the microsystem platform comprises: a radial array of microchannels having a diameter of about $100\ \mu\text{m}$, wherein the microchannels are treated with heparin to prevent coagulation, and wherein the microchannels are open at one end proximal to the center of the disk, and wherein the apparatus also comprises a coherent light source and a recording means operatively connected thereto comprising the

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micromanipulation device, and wherein movement of the blood sample through the microchannels is motivated by centripetal force generated by rotational motion of the microsystem platform,

- b) placing the microsystem platform in a micromanipulation device,
- c) providing rotational motion to the microsystem platform for a time and at a velocity sufficient to motivate the red blood cells comprising the blood sample to move along the extent of the microchannel,
- d) scanning the microchannel along its length with the coherent light source,
- e) detecting a change in light scatter at a position along the microchannel that defines a boundary between the red blood cells and blood plasma,
- f) recording the position of the boundary for each microchannel, and
- g) comparing the position of this boundary for each microchannel with a standard curve relating hematocrit values to the position of the boundary, and recording the hematocrit value determined thereby.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."




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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Sines whose telephone number is (703) 305-0401. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (11:30 AM - 8 PM EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (703) 308-4037. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


Jill Warden
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700

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